

Substitute House Bill No. 5016

House of Representatives, April 22, 1998. The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. KEELEY, 125th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 17a-219c of the  
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) There is established a Family Support  
5 Council to assist the Department of Mental  
6 Retardation and other state agencies that  
7 administer or fund family support services to act  
8 in concert and within available appropriations, to  
9 (1) establish a comprehensive, coordinated system  
10 of family support services, (2) use existing state  
11 and other resources efficiently and effectively as  
12 appropriate for such services, (3) identify and  
13 address, within available appropriations, services  
14 that are needed for families of children with  
15 disabilities, and (4) promote state-wide  
16 availability of such services. The council shall  
17 consist of [twenty-four] TWENTY-SEVEN voting  
18 members including the Commissioners of Public  
19 Health, Mental Retardation, Children and Families,  
20 Education, Social Services or their designees, THE  
21 CHILD ADVOCATE, the executive director of the  
22 Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with  
23 Disabilities, the chair of the Birth-to-Three

24 Council, as established pursuant to sections  
25 17a-248, 17a-248b to 17a-248g, inclusive, 38a-490a  
26 and 38a-516c, the executive director of the  
27 Commission on Children, and family members of, OR  
28 INDIVIDUALS WHO ADVOCATE FOR, children with  
29 disabilities. The family members OR INDIVIDUALS  
30 WHO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES shall  
31 comprise two-thirds of the council [,] and shall  
32 be appointed as follows: Six by the Governor,  
33 [two] THREE by the president pro tempore of the  
34 Senate, two by the majority leader of the Senate,  
35 one by the minority leader of the Senate, [two]  
36 THREE by the speaker of the House of  
37 Representatives, two by the majority leader of the  
38 House of Representatives and one by the minority  
39 leader of the House of Representatives. The  
40 initial appointments to the council shall be made  
41 on or before September 1, 1994. Members shall be  
42 appointed for a term of four years. Members shall  
43 be limited to two consecutive terms. The council  
44 shall meet at least quarterly and shall select its  
45 own chairperson. The initial meeting of the  
46 council shall be convened before October 1, 1994.  
47 Council members shall serve without compensation  
48 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
49 incurred. The costs of administering the council  
50 shall be within available appropriations in  
51 accordance with sections 17a-219a to 17a-219c,  
52 inclusive.

53 HS COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 15 NAY 0 JFS

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5016**

STATE IMPACT	None, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Mental Retardation and Office of the Child Advocate

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

This bill increases the membership on the Family Support Council by adding the Child Advocate. It is anticipated that the Child Advocate will perform council responsibilities within the normal budgetary resources of the Office of Child Advocate. In addition, this bill expands the definition of certain council members to include individuals who advocate for children with disabilities. The Department of Mental Retardation will not incur additional costs as a result of passage of this bill.

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**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

HB 5016

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**

**SUMMARY:** This bill increases membership of the Family Support Council from 24 to 27. It adds the state's child advocate and amends current membership to allow for individuals who advocate for children with disabilities. Current law only includes "family members" of children with disabilities. Family members or individuals that advocate for children with

disabilities must make up two-thirds of the council.

By law, these members are appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The bill increases from two to three the appointments the House speaker and the Senate president each make to account for the two additional members whose family or individuals who advocate for children.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Family Support Council**

The Family Support Council assists the Department of Mental Retardation and other state agencies that administer or fund family support services to act together and within available appropriations to (1) establish a comprehensive, coordinated system of family support services; (2) use existing state and other resources efficiently and effectively as appropriate; (3) identify and address services needed; and (4) promote statewide availability of services.

### **Legislative History**

The House referred the bill (File 324) the Human Services Committee on April 8. It favorably reported the bill on April 14, specifying that the House speaker and Senate president appoint the two additional family/advocates for children members.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
Yea 22      Nay 0

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 17      Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

File No. 580

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Yea 15      Nay 0